

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-20 remain in this application.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 9, 12, 14 and 20 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Okabe, et al.* (United States Patent 6,799,130).

The examiner has rejected claims 10 and 19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okabe, et al.*, in view of *Matsumoto, et al.* (United States Published Patent Application 2002/0111038).

The examiner has objected to claims 2, 4, 11, 13 and 15-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner has indicated that claims 5-8 are allowed.

In view of the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of the above noted rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(e):

Of the claims rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Okabe, et al.*, **claims 1, 9 and 14** have been cancelled by the above amendments. **Claim 3** has been amended to depend from newly independent claim 2, instead of cancelled claim 1. **Claim 12** has been amended to depend from newly independent claim 11, instead of cancelled claim 9. **Claim 20** has been amended to depend from newly independent claim 15, instead of cancelled claim 14. Applicant respectfully submits that rejected **claims 3, 12 and 20** have thus been placed in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a):

Of the claims rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okabe, et al.*, in view of *Matsumoto, et al.*, **claim 10** has been amended to depend from newly independent claim 11, instead of cancelled claim 9, and **claim 19** has

been amended to depend from newly independent claim 15, instead of cancelled claim 14. Applicant respectfully submits that rejected **claims 10 and 19** have thus been placed in condition for allowance.


Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating that **claims 5-8** are allowed and that **claims 2, 4, 11, 13 and 15-18** would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. **Claims 2, 4, 11, 13, 15 and 18** have been amended accordingly. **Claims 16 and 17** depend from newly independent claim 15 and have not been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that **claims 2, 4, 11, 13 and 15-18** have thus been placed in condition for allowance.

For the reasons specifically discussed above, and others, it is believed that pending **claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-20** define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the previous rejections and objections as they might apply to the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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